

INFOFAX 20

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

[Handwritten Signature]

COUNTRY Romania

DATE DISTR. 10 AUG 51

SUBJECT 1. Tabacaria Nationala Leather Factory, Bucharest
2. Workers' Morale in Bucharest

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE 25X1C

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)ACQUIRED [REDACTED]
DATE OF INFO 25X1XSUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. The present Tabacaria Nationala is the result of a merger of the Tabacaria Gralex, Tabacaria Burul, and the original Tabacaria Nationala.
2. The factory employs between 1,200 and 1,400 workers, who processes leather for the manufacture of soles and tops of shoes. The highest grade leather is selected by Army officers for military use, the next grade is used for export purposes, and the remainder is used for civilian consumption.
3. Most of the hides utilized are received from Argentina, and are of good quality but are light in weight; therefore, they are most effectively used for shoe linings. The factory processes about 15,000 kilograms of hides daily, using mostly synthetic tanning materials.
4. Fish skins, probably from dolphins, are processed at the factory for eventual use as watch bands and women's purses. Crepe soles are also made in the factory, and informant believes that the crepe is imported from the United States. There is great need for tanning materials, thread, fish oil, and heavy leather.
5. Until January 1951, the factory had 40 guards and firemen, when this number was increased to 100. Buildings, which are nearby, have wood or metal platforms built on top; these platforms are camouflaged, and their true nature is not known.
6. According to informant, workers at the factory are dissatisfied because salaries are extremely low and working conditions poor. Responsible jobs are held by unqualified personnel, who receive the positions only because they are Communist Party members. All shortages and deprivations, as well as the excessive demands for hard labor is explained to the workers as being "for the good of the people".
7. The corn, wheat, and potatoes of the peasants must be turned over to the State at extremely low prices, and the peasants are selling their cattle because they cannot afford to buy feed. Informant stated that he had seen many carloads of cattle being shipped to the slaughterhouses, but no meat was distributed to the people.

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